HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 15 No. 2 - February, 2007

President's Letter
by Howard, AB9FH

On the home front, I am pleased to report my family is comfortably settled in our new house in Hartford. We are enjoying seeing the stars at night, and not hearing the sirens and other late night traffic at West Allis Memorial. We have dealt with our first frozen water pipe; we feel like real homeowners now. What's more, there is this tree in the backyard that will make a fine antenna support. Maybe I can fit a full 102' doublet between it and the house...

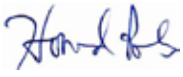
I am even more pleased to report that the job of treasurer is being placed in the capable hands of Mark, AB9CD, who has done the job before. Between Sarah and myself, we didn't lose anybody's money, renewal form or reimbursement request, but I know we have surely tried many people's patience with our tardiness. As I mentioned at our last meeting, the VEC has decided to manage their own money, instead of having it sit in the club's checking account. Ever since I joined the club, I have wondered at this arrangement, and I think the separation is a good thing. Certainly, it takes care of a long-standing point of confusion: what's this $3,xxx in our checking account that really isn't ours?

It looks like 2007 will be a good year for the club. I am hoping we can get some of the kids from the Milwaukee Boys & Girls Clubs interested in Ham Radio. Perhaps some of them will attend our Technician class starting next month and if so, the possibility exists to provide an adviser or two to a club. Ham radio is a great hobby that also teaches about technology and science. We have special speakers lined up for our March club meeting, including Gordon West, WB6NOA, and an as-yet unnamed ARRL guest too. We had more than 70 people come to see Gordon last year, and this is a good opportunity to show what the club can do. SuperFest follows the next day. We have Field Day and our special event for the club's 90th anniversary this summer.

If this reaches you soon enough, don't forget to get on the air for the FM Simplex Contest. If it is too late, be sure to send those logs in!

By the way, if you want to be a part of all the things going on this year, there are three positions on the Board that will come up for nominations in just a month or so. The incumbents may wish to return; they may not. It is always more interesting when we have an actual election.

So until next time, try to stay warm, think Global Warming, and hopefully contribute a little heat yourself by heating up a tube or two, or maybe just sharing some of your hot air, on the air!



Howard, AB9FH

MRAC Officers

President
Howard Parks — AB9FH

Vice President
Joe Schwarz — N9UX

Secretary
Sarah Parks — KB9ZNC

Treasurer
Mark Tellier — AB9CD

Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis ('05-'07)	KA9OFA
Tom Liebe ('06-'08)	WI9TOM
Ted Stiller ('06-'08)	WA9RDI
Jerry Wahlen ('05-'07)	WA9CGE
Dick Wood ('05-'07)	W9JBE

HamateurChatter Editor
Pancho Doneis — KA9OFA
New: adoneis@wi.rr.com
(414) 344-4694

HamateurChatter Emailings
Joe Schwarz — N9UX

Regular Mailings
Dick Wood — W9JBE

Club/VEC Phone no. is
(414) 332-MRAC or
(414) 332-6 7 2 2

Visit our website at:
www.w9rh.org

Address correspondence to:
M. R. A. C.
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695
or w9rh@arrl.net

Nets Heard in the Milwaukee Area

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130-	ARRL voice news
Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130-	MAARS Swapnet
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap Net
Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m. SSB Net
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri	**8:00 PM**	**28.490**	**MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)**
Fri.	**9:00 PM**	**145.390-**	**W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net**
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800	FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 meters and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are $17.^{00}$ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9FH WA9RDI N9UX
AE9G W9RYW KB9ZNC
KF9PU

Our thanks also goes to:

Rita Doneis and Tom Fuszard, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.

Thanks also to Dick Wood for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter and to Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Mark Tellier, Tom Fuszard, and Tom Czaja who manage our VEC.

Thank YOU!

Upcoming Programs

February 22nd meeting brings you Hans Schroeder talking about decibel, the Metric System, and other interesting topics.

Again this year, the March 29th meeting will feature Gordon West, WB6NOA, and joining Gordon West will be Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, ARRL Marketing Manager.

Our April 26th meeting will feature Howard Parks, AB9FH, who will talk about "Emergency Response" along with our Nominations for elections in May.

Our June meeting will probably be centered around Field Day which is Saturday and Sunday, June 24th & 25th, this year.

General Membership Meeting 1/225/07

By Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC

Our president, Howard, AB9FH, called the meeting to order at 8:29 p.m.

The minutes were read. Since there were no additions or corrections, Tom, WI9TOM, moved to accept them, and Pancho, KA9OFA, seconded the motion.

Howard noted that, due to the secretary/treasurer situation, there would be no treasurer's report; however, Mark, AB9CD, will be serving as treasurer.

The mic was passed for all to identify. Buzz Talk was interrupted by the tragic death of the mic partway through.

The first item of old business was Howard reminding the membership of the FM simplex contest next month.

The second item was the Christmas party. Howard, AB9FH, said that it was certainly enjoyable, but there were a few things to keep in mind for next year; namely, getting money up front.

The third item was Howard again urged the members for ideas concerning the 90th anniversary.

Next was VEC related news. Mark, AB9CD, had spoken earlier in the evening on how anyone who had taken the General written test could show up the Saturday after the code requirement dropped and upgrade for free.

The first item of new business was, since the code requirement will be dropped the 23rd of February, we will probably hold a General license class. It will probably last about 10 weeks, and possibly include a 'field trip' to Field Day.

The second item was that the Boys and Girls Club of Milwaukee is interested in starting a ham radio club. Howard said he would very much like to encourage this.

The next was, at the request of Tom Fuszard, KF9PU, -- head of the VEC -- the money in the VEC fund will be placed in a separate account. Also on the topic of funds, Pancho, KA9OFA, requested everyone renew their membership.

A new Tech class will be started on Feb. 17th at A.E.S. The class will be free and last for six weeks. Books (A.R.R.L. Tech book) will be offered at a discount.

Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP, said that we may have two special guests this March due to SuperFest. He also stated that the history is continuing to be updated and he put in a 'plug' for the MRAC Yahoo group. Anyone interested in joining should either contact Dave, or use the link on the website.

Ken, WK9H, mentioned another contest. Pancho, KA9OFA, said there was as yet no program for next month; anyone interested should contact him.

Pancho made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Tom, WI9TOM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC

B.O.D Minutes 1/22/07

Board of Director's Minutes for 1/22/07

Present:

Howard Parks, AB9FH - President

Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC - Secretary

Joe Schulz, N9UX - Vice-president

Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA - Director

Richard Wood, WB9TBE - Director

Ted Stiller, WA9RDI - Director

Howard Parks, AB9FH, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Sarah, KB9ZNC, read the minutes from the October and November board meetings. Pancho, KA9OFA, moved to accept both; Ted, WA9RDI, seconded the motion for the Oct. minutes and Joe, N9UX, seconded the motion for the Nov. minutes.

Due to the state of the former treasurer's house and the distance to the post office box there was no treasurer report.

There was some discussion on storage units.

First item of old business was the lack of an official treasurer. Mark Tellier, AB9CD, has been appointed treasurer by Howard and Sarah will be secretary. Pancho

BOC cont.on pg. 4

BOD cont. from pg. 3

asked about membership and renewals and who was to keep the current roster. Joe suggested that, as run before, the treasurer would keep the secretary updated, and the secretary would keep Pancho and the 'Chatter distributors informed as well.

Next item was the 90th anniversary committee. Nothing has been done yet, but Howard, AB9FH, promised to get moving on it. Joe, N9UX, has spoken to his contact regarding 501(c), and the contact will speak to the president about it.

Tom Liebe, WI9TOM, will not be able to provide the program for January, so Ted, WA9RDI, will provide it. Ted also suggested contacting Hans about his offer to explain the decibel. Howard suggested a program sometime on what to do if you hear an S.O.S. call; he volunteered to do it for March. In answer to a question, the nominations for May's election will be in April.

Howard, AB9FH, referenced the idea of stickers on QST and said he will get that moving as well.

Ted asked about the audio system. His only request was to make holding the mike easier. He made a motion, seconded by Pancho, KA9OFA, to put the audio system question to rest. Motion passed.

The next topic was the phone messages on the club's answering machine. Ted, WA9RDI, requested the issue be looked into.

His third request was that attendance/payment issues for the Christmas party be worked out for next time.

On the topic of the simplex contest, Joe, N9UX, has distributed flyers and word is getting out on the radio as well.

We are signed up for the AES 2007 SuperFest.

Howard, AB9FH's, first item of business, a Tech class, probably will be starting Feb. 17th. He would also like a General class this summer.

Ted asked about getting Joel Harrison (President of the A.R.R.L.) and Gordon West to speak, since they will be in town for the SuperFest. Pancho said Dave DeFebo was already looking into it.

Ted also wondered if the Department of Homeland Security had been given any authority over ham radio; though not certain, Howard felt it was unlikely.

There was some discussion over the ending of the code tests.

Pancho, KA9OFA, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Joe, N9UX.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC

February Program

Hans Schroeder, AE9G will talk a little about Decibels, Metric System, and other topics then conduct a discussion on these interesting subjects and others which he may bring up. It should be an interesting program.

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I remember hearing Ed Wille, W9PWG, SK, ex pres., tell about asking his daughter, Susan, when she was a little tyke if she knew what a decibel was.

Her response was , "Sure, Dad, it's one tenth of a bell".

Reminders

Please check into our nets on Friday evenings.

Our ten meter SSB net is at **8:00 p.m.** at **28.490 MHz ± 5 KHz USB.**

Our two meter FM net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz**, minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at **Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr**. We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

Don't forget our **OTA (Over The Air) CW** Practice and Operating Practices on our W9RH repeater at 145.39 MHz with a PL of 127.3Hz.

Dick McNew, WB9PTC, is currently doing the honors on our repeater. Not only is he sending CW, but he he also talks about operating procedures, which is actually pretty interesting. He also has some of the other more experienced operators chiming in from time to time. When he is unable to do it, sometimes Buck, K9RYW, takes over.

The classes are currently on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Please, check in and give them some feedback so they will know how they are doing.

CQ Third Tuesday

Come to CQ Third Tuesday at:

Old Country Buffet

16750 West Bluemound Rd.

Brookfield,WI

This gathering of HAMs meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

We start arriving there at 11:00 a.m. and leave when we're full and/or all talked out.

All HAMs are invited.

EVENTS

MRAC General Meeting
Thu., Feb. 22, 2007
7:00 p.m.

16th Annual Equipment Auction
Eau Claire ARC
Sat. - March 17, 2007
Grace Lutheran Church
Eau Claire, WI
T/I on 146.91 (PL 110.9)
www.ecarc.org/auction07.htm

Middwinter Madness 2007
Robbinsdale ARC
Sat. - March 24,2007
Buffalo Civic Center
Buffalo, MN
T/I on 147.600/147.00 rptr
email: k0ltc@k0ltc.org
http://www.k0ltc.org

MRAC General Meeting
Thu.,Mar. 22, 2007
7:00 p.m.

AES SuperFest 2007 *
VE testing on Sat. only
Fri. & Sat.- March 30-31, 2007
Amateur Electronic Supply (AES)
Milwaukee, WI
www.aesham.com

Madison Area Repeater Assn. Swapfest
Mandt Community Center
Stoughton, WI
Sat. - April 21, 2007
www.qsl.net/mara
147.75/15 Mhz

Cedarburg SwapFest
May 5, 2007
Circle B Recreation Center
Cedarburg, WI
T/I on 146.97- (PL 127.3)
www.ozaukeeradioclub.org

* indicates VE testing is available.

VE NEWS
BY TOM, KF9PU

Twenty-four applicants visited us during our session on Jan. 27. Six left as new Technicians. Fifteen earned a CSCE for the General Class exam. VEs who assisted with this session included:

Pancho Doneis——— KA9OFA
Larry Noldan——— KC9IJA
Hal Newton——— KB9OZN
Gail Cronin——— KB9RJE
Ken Eggert——— W9MOT
Jim Cronin——— K9UGD
Naomi Potash——— KC9GSS
Nels Harvey——— WA9JOB
Kent Christiansen—— N9WH
Ken Hahn——— .WK9H
Les Hundt——— AB9EY
Tom Liebe——— WI9TOM
Bob Diehl——— WB9KMT
Mark Tellier——— AB9CD

Our next session will be held at
9:30 a.m. at
AES on Feb. 24., 2007

FM SIMPLEX CONTEST LOG

Don't forget to send in your FM simplex contest log.

Even if you feel you didn't do too well, send them in anyway. The powers that be can use them to check other logs and who knows, you might even surprise yourself.

EXAM SCHEDULE
BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

MRAC VEC
Exam Schedule
Winter and Spring 2006
Sat., Feb. 24 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Sat., Mar. 31 8:30 a.m. @ AES Superfest

Sat., Apr. 28 9:30 a.m.. @ AES

Sat., May 26 9:30 a.m. @ AES

AES = Amateur Electronic Supply
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Here is a scheduled of the VE Test Sessions in Janesville, Wisconsin for the year of 2007:
April 21, 2007
July 21, 2007
October 20, 2007
The time and location is listed on the ARRL Listed Test Sessions or on my **N9FRY** call page under QRZ.COM.

The **next meeting** of **MRAC**
will be **Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007**
at 7:00 p.m.
Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

Our Repeater,
Talk it up.
145.390– MHz
(127.3 Hz PL)

Our program for the February 22nd general meeting will be:

Discussion of Decibels, Metric System and Other interesting Topics moderated by

Hans Schroeder, AE9G

Visit our new website at: **www.w9rh.org**
Our phone (414) 332-MRAC
332-6722

M.R.A.C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

First Class